

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A communication system comprising an exchange and a
2 plurality of telephones accommodated in the exchange,
3 wherein:

4 each of said telephones includes:

5 hold instruction accept means for accepting a
6 hold instruction from an operator; and

7 hold releasing instruction accept means for
8 accepting a hold releasing instruction from the operator,
9 and

10 said exchange includes:

11 hold control means for holding, in accordance
12 with the hold instruction from the telephone under
13 communication, a communication partner of the telephone
14 concerned;

15 hold information registration means for
16 registering in a hold information register area information
17 of the communication partner of the telephone which is held
18 in accordance with the hold instruction from the telephone;
19 and

20 hold release means for searching, in
21 accordance with a hold release instruction from the
22 telephone which holds the communication partner,
23 information of a communication partner specified by the
24 hold release instruction from the hold information

25 registration area, and releasing the hold of the
26 communication partner specified by the searched information,
27 thereby connecting the communication partner to the
28 telephone.

1 2. The communication system as claimed in claim 1,
2 wherein:

3 a plurality of common hold buttons are provided as
4 said hold instruction accept means and said hold release
5 instruction accept means, and there are provided a
6 plurality of display means each of which is provided in
7 association with each of the common hold buttons, accepts a
8 hold instruction and is turned on when the corresponding
9 common hold button is pushed, and accepts a hold release
10 instruction and is turned off when the corresponding common
11 hold button is pushed during the turn-on state thereof,
12 wherein said hold information registration means associates
13 the information of the communication partner held in
14 accordance with the hold instruction from the telephone
15 with the common hold button accepting the hold instruction
16 concerned to register the information in the hold
17 information registration area, and

18 said hold release means searches, in accordance with
19 the hold release instruction from the telephone, the
20 information corresponding to the common hold button
21 accepting the hold release instruction from the hold

22 information registration area, and releases the hold of the
23 communication partner specified by the searched information,
24 thereby connecting the communication partner to the
25 telephone.

1 3. An exchange accommodating therein a plurality of
2 telephones each having a hold function, comprising:

3 hold control means for holding a communication
4 partner of a telephone in accordance with a hold
5 instruction from a telephone under communication;

6 hold information registration means for registering
7 in a hold information registration area information of the
8 communication partner of the telephone which is held in
9 accordance with the hold instruction from the telephone;
10 and

11 hold release means for searching in accordance with
12 a hold release instruction from the telephone holding the
13 communication partner the information of the communication
14 partner specified by the hold release instruction from the
15 hold information registration area, releasing the holding
16 of the communication partner specified by the searched
17 information and connecting the communication partner
18 concerned to the telephone.

1 4. A communication hold control method in a
2 communication system comprising an exchange and a plurality

3 of telephones each of which is accommodated in the exchange
 4 and has a hold function, comprising:
 5 a first step of holding a communication partner of a
 6 telephone in accordance with a hold instruction from the
 7 telephone under communication;
 8 a second step of registering information of the
 9 communication partner of the telephone under hold into a
 10 hold information registration area; and
 11 a third step of searching in accordance with a hold
 12 release instruction from the telephone the information of a
 13 communication partner specified by the hold release
 14 instruction, releasing the holding of the communication
 15 partner specified by the searched information and then
 16 connecting the communication partner to the telephone,
 17 wherein said first, second and third steps are carried out
 18 in said exchange, and said first step holds the
 19 communication partner of the telephone under communication
 20 even when the telephone under communication which outputs
 21 the hold instruction has already have a communication
 22 partner under hold.